

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 21, 2003 ON MAY 28, 2003 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CONDUCT A BUDGET WORK SESSION.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner George Brown
Commissioner Bill Harper
Commissioner Perry Morris
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
Commissioner Leon C. Staton

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
Ray H. Moser, Human Resources Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
James R. Sugg, County Attorney

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, reported on two studies that would have a potential impact on the budget. He advised the Board that the jail study, which was projected to be completed in June, will require an extension due to some discrepancies in figures that were being used by the study team. He indicated that September would probably be the earliest that the report would be available. Therefore, the results will not be available for consideration during budget deliberations. He also advised the Board of the completion of the USSI study team report, which was prepared for distribution.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board proceeded to review departmental budget requests and recommendations beginning with the Tax Mapping Department through Fire Departments, including highlights of the following budgets:

- *Inspections* – reassessment of Level III inspection certification needs
- *Rescue Squads* – possible need to evolve toward paid staff in all squads in order to provide adequate service
- *Health* – operation of Environmental Lab needs reassessment
- *Solid Waste* – possible upgrades to convenience center sites to construct ramps to facilitate placement of articles in the boxes.

At 12:25 p.m. the Board was declared in recess.

At 1:00 p.m. the Board reconvened.

- *Social Services* – concept of incentives for Home Health Nurses and Child Protective Services Social Workers
- *Recreation* – discussion of needs in western part of the County

REPORT OF UNITED SENIOR SERVICES, INC. STUDY TEAM

Alfreda Stout, Program Manager for Craven County Adult Services, and Linda LeDrew, Assistant Finance Director, presented for the Board's review, a report of the USSI Study Committee. The third member of the study team, Tanya Cedars of Eastern Carolina Council of Governments, was not present. Findings were presented in the following categories that have effected the agency's financial status adversely:

- revenues
- overhead costs
- operating costs
- utilization and reporting of grant funds

Recommendations of the study group were presented. There was discussion of their recommendations, issues of accountability, and the funding future for the agency. Action steps were proposed, as follows:

- The County would consider funding the agency for a finite period, to be determined. During this period the agency would be given an opportunity to demonstrate a reversal of its financial status.
- The County would give notice before withdrawing funding, if no results were demonstrated.
- The agency would return its Administrative Offices to the George Street site.
- The Organizational Chart would be reconstructed.

It was the consensus that the Board should consider the findings and recommendations in depth and be prepared to make a budget decision relative to the County's appropriation to United Senior Services, Inc.

Budget Requests and Recommendations (Con't)

- *Schools* – recommended increase in supplements
- *Fire Departments* – It was the consensus of the Board that Township 5 Fire Department needs a more indepth review.

At 4:10 p.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to recess to reconvene at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2003, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk